

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended above. New claims 18 and 19 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-7, 18 and 19 of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for the use of certain language in Claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the cleanliness of the surface area is not measured in accordance with Class 10 of FED-STD-209E.

Applicant believes that the rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn as to Claims 1-7.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Applicant's admission (Admission) or United Kingdom Publication GB 2 309 466A to Johnson et al. (Johnson) in view of U.S. Patent 4,888,229 to Paley et al (Paley).

The Examiner makes various observations on the reasons that Johnson, Paley and the Admission would render the claimed invention obvious. The Examiner finally notes that cleanliness of the surface from which the liquid was removed does not affect the method in a manipulative sense. The Examiner has offered Ex parte Pfeiffer for this position. However, Pfeiffer was not directed to a new use for a previously existing product as recited in the subject claims. Applicant has found that a nonwoven fabric can be used in cleanroom applications where a Class 10 or better cleanliness is required. Until this invention, it had been commonly believed that only knitted and preferably knitted, sealed-edge fabrics were acceptable in such applications. As noted in Loctite v Ultraseal, 228 USPQ 90,99 (Fed. Cir. 1985), [e]ven if a composition is old, a process using a known composition in a new and unobvious way may be patentable.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that the subject claims are not obvious in view of the Admission and the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome and that the instant claims are now in condition for allowance. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown in brackets [], and inserted material is shown underlined.

1 (twice amended). A method of using a nonwoven fabric for wiping in Class 10 or cleaner cleanrooms as determined by FED-STD-209E, [wherein the fabric is comprised of fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, lyocell, and blends of polyester with lyocell,] comprising the steps of

contacting with the nonwoven fabric a quantity of particle-burdened liquid present on a surface,

removing from the surface by wiping with the nonwoven fabric at least a portion of the quantity of the particle-burdened liquid [and wherein the surface from which the liquid was removed] such that the surface has a cleanliness suitable for use in Class 10 or cleaner cleanrooms as determined by FED-STD-209E.